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Lilacs

Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society

Forcing Lilacs



'Pervyi Sneg' (First snow in Russian)
by Ludmila Pshennikova

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*'Snezhnii Kom' (Snow ball in Russian)
by Tatyana Polyakova*



INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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FOR SPRING 2022 ISSUE:
March 1, 2022

[Please send photos *at least 300dpi*
+ articles]

President's Message

Dear Lilac Enthusiasts Around the World,



I am dedicating my letter in this edition, to my dog Gracy Lou. I lost her on March 3rd; she was just shy of sixteen years old. You may be asking: Why is he writing about his dog in the *LILACS* Journal? It is because she was my gardening companion. Every spring to fall she would accompany me (plus my other two pups) to my Wolcott Lilac Gardens. The gardens are about two acres and fenced. She was at side almost the entire day as sometimes she would wander off to hunt a pesky animal, foolish enough to enter the garden on her watch. She was quite the hunter. She was always patient and almost always caught the critter. It was always an all-day affair in the gardens. She loved every minute, but when it was time to go home, she fell asleep on the front seat, exhausted from her day of gardening and hunting. She was feisty until the end and I wouldn't have it any other way. I wanted her to live forever, but God only thought I needed so much time. She was not only a dog; she was family, a teacher and an angel. I had lots to learn from her, and she taught me how to live, how to love, and how to see happiness in the simple things around us.

What she taught me was:

- Love is unconditional.
- Always greet your family with excitement when they come home.
- Never pass up an opportunity to go somewhere fun.
- Fresh air can bring happiness and the wind in your face is quite a thrill.
- Take naps and always stretch when you get up.
- Play every day.
- Enjoy the attention when someone offers it.

- Find the simple joy of taking a long walk.
- On hot days, drink lots of water.
- When you are happy, bounce around and shake your body (some might say, dance like no one is watching).
- Don't bite when a simply growl will do.
- Always be faithful.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- When a friend is in need, just be close by, sit silently, listen and muzzle them gently.
- Garden like there is no tomorrow.

There is a common theme: Love, Joy, and Happiness. Love everyone as a friend you haven't met, be joyful of every day; you don't know when it will be your last. Be happy for the people in your life. Live every day like it is your last, because "Tomorrow is not a Given". Do you have a garden buddy?



Changing thoughts now, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Karen McCauley for her many years of service as ILS Treasurer. She kept a tight ship and really was important in getting our investments to where they are today. Though she is not our treasurer anymore, she is still an active member in our society. As Convention Chair, she is working with the group from Rochester to plan our Society's Fiftieth Convention. Thank you, Karen.

This year, I had the opportunity to meet Fr. Fiala's nephew, John Bogdan. He contacted me to see if I wanted some original documents and papers from his mom's estate. She had purchased Fr. Fiala's Florida home. While clearing out the home of his mom, Elsie Lenore, they found journals and other correspondences related to the ILS. They were going to trash them but decided to email me. He lives on part of the original Falconskeape in Medina, Ohio, USA. He also gave me pictures of his family; it was exciting to be able to put the names to the faces of several of Fr. Fiala's hybrids. I plan on keeping in contact with John, and hope to see some of the lilacs he saved from a bulldozer.

From February 19 to February 22, 2022 the Russian Group held their lilacs in February symposium: "The Sixth International Scientific and Practical Online Conference *Syringa* L., Significant Contributors to the World' in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. 100 participants from 12 countries attended the three-and a-half-day conference. It was a virtual conference via Zoom Meetings. Claire Fouquet did my greeting, as I was unable to attend this year. The awards for the ILS were also presented on my behalf; the formal Awards Presentation will take place at the 50th Annual Convention in Rochester in May, 2022. Claire created a presentation about the history of the ILS, 'The First 20 Years and Today'. It included topics from the ILS constitution, to its mission and activities to a presentation of short biographies of all the past and present Presidents, who all made contributions to lilacs in their own ways. Dr Mark DeBard discussed the lives of T. Havemeyer and J. Rankin. Claire presented some of the Canadian hybridizers: Preston, Moro, and Skinner. Tatiana Polyakova conversed about Kolesnikov, Fiala, the lilac festival in Rochester, and gave a review of her collection of lilac books. Additional talks about important people going back hundreds of

years were presented, as well as significant lilac gardens. Several ILS Board members were also in attendance, including Tatyana Polyakova, Claire Fouquet, Mark DeBard, Bruce Peart, and Eugen Rack. From what was reported to me, it was a conference worth attending. I hope to be able to be present at a future International Scientific Conference.

Our last Board Meeting was held February 13, 2022, via Zoom Meetings. The Board approved \$650 for additional changes to the website. Several actions to attract new members were discussed and voted on. Most were not approved due to costs and effectiveness. Others will be brought up for discussion after more research is completed. The next Board meeting will be held during the Convention, which was voted on, and will be an in-person one.

In closing, I would like to state that I support all of our members, no matter which country they reside. I would like to see everyone be more like my Gracy Lou: love everyone, be unjudging, help those in need, and be joyful of the simple things you have. Take time to smell the flowers, especially the lilacs. Please enjoy every day and never take life to granted, garden like there is no tomorrow. And remember to never garden alone! See you in Rochester, New York, May 12–14th.

See you along the Lilac Path,

Dr Robert Zavodny

2021 International Lilac Society (ILS) Board of Directors Meeting summary, June 19, 2021

This International Lilac Society Board of Directors' meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19, incomplete recovery of the worldwide pandemic. Meeting hosted by President Robert Zavodny from Ohio. Meeting recorder: Bradley Bittorf

This meeting was held with the continuing and appointed members of the Board of Directors due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic, which prevented us from conducting usual business during the past year.

Attendance: Dr. Robert Zavodny (President), David Gressley*, Bradley Bittorf (Executive Vice President), Tim McCauley*, Nicole Jordan*, Bruce Peart*, Claire Fouquet*, Tom Gober (Editor), Kelly Applegate*, Dr. Mark DeBard*, Karen McCauley (Treasurer), Jack Alexander III*, Franklin "Woody" Barnes*

* Member of Board of Directors

President Zavodny called the meeting to order using the Zoom online meeting platform. A quorum of at least four board members was confirmed, per requirements in the ILS by-laws.

Review of Board meeting minutes: The meeting minutes from the virtual meeting in May 2020, were approved with small corrections.

Officer and Committee Reports: Summaries of Reports provided by each person:

President's report, Dr. Robert Zavodny: The Board of Directors has held more frequent virtual meetings than just the few in-person meetings we held in prior years. Dr. Zavodny participated virtually in 5th international scientific conference in St. Petersburg.

Executive Vice President's report, Bradley Bittorf: Due to the challenges because of COVID-19, we did not hold an election of Board of Directors members. During discussion, it was noted that all the incumbents are willing to serve again, and no other candidates were identified. There was a discussion of alternatives.

Motion by Kelly Applegate / Jack Alexander: Due to extenuating circumstances from the COVID-19 pandemic, the current board has made a motion to retain the current slate of Board of Directors members in office until next year's election. The board members whose terms would have expired

in 2021 will remain in until 2022. At that time, there will be an election for board members whose terms expire in 2024 (a two-year term) for this year's incumbents, and an election for board members whose terms will expire in 2025 (a three-year term). Motion passed.

In response to a question from Brad, Karen McCauley reported that a TV station in Minneapolis that asked about a lilac feature did do a feature from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Treasurers' report: Karen McCauley: we had only two journals this year due to special circumstances, and we received a check for returned funds from the convention that we did not hold in Quebec City. There was a discussion about the origin and purpose of the Lourene Wishart fund. Jack Alexander gave some background on the fund and our founding member Lourene Wishart and said that fund could be used for plant propagation.

Receipts for ILS expenses must be submitted within 180 days to be eligible for reimbursement.

Karen said it was important to have Secretary position separate from Treasurer position.

There was a discussion of the seven current complementary institutional memberships for ILS. Board members wondered whether all of these were still appropriate. A motion was made by Jack Alexander / Woody Barnes to continue the complementary memberships but to investigate each of them further. Motion passed.

Editor Report: Tom Gober had some medical issues, and he is getting caught up on the journal. Because we did not hold a convention, there will be no convention report. Tom asked that content not be put on the ILS Facebook group but rather be sent to the Editor first. Many members of the Facebook group are not ILS members. There was a debate about whether commercial members should be advertised to the members only, or to the public.

Auditor Report: The ILS financial records are in perfect order and were audited by Nicole Jordan.

Awards: Brian Morley is working with Tatiana Polyakova on Awards Nominations.

Preservation Committee: Robert Zavodny met with US members of the committee including Joshua Miller. There are multiple good efforts going on within the Preservation committee and it is important to have multiple "copies" of cultivars in different places. He said the Russian preservation efforts are very advanced. Mark said that the preservation committee report was amazing to read, and detailed. He commended the committee and said it deserves resources.

Research Committee: Dr. Wainess was not able to be online at the time of the discussion. Brad reported there are two research proposals, one from Hope College in Michigan, and another from Oregon State University. Claire and Kelly said that we should build a frequent reporting mechanism into the report for whichever one we fund. Brad will send copies of both proposals to Dr. Zavodny. The board deferred action on funding one of the proposals until its next meeting so it could collect more information about each and talk to Dr. Wainess.

Convention Report: May 12-14, 2022 is the date for next convention in Rochester, NY. The 2023 convention is tentatively scheduled to be held in Germany, and the 2024 convention is tentatively scheduled to be held at Kent, Ohio, USA.

Registrar report: Dr. Mark DeBard: 100 copies of the lilac register were sold, about ½ hardcover and ½ soft cover. ILS receives a small percentage of the money for each copy sold. Several people contacted the Registrar with updates and corrections. The graphics information is hard to update unless we change format.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- Mark DeBard / Jack Alexander made a motion that two people at all times should have passwords for ILS internet access. Jack asked whether that was also true for bank accounts. Motion passed.
- Claire discussed the current situation in Quebec.
- A cutting of the 'Moondust' cultivar has been provided to a garden which wanted to propagate this cultivar. In exchange, the company wrote a check to ILS for the estimated price of the cultivar at an ILS auction. The company is going to provide a small royalty to ILS for each one they sell. This could be a future model for some revenue. David added that there would be an income stream as long as a single grower has it in the US. Claire said 'Moondust' is available commercially in Canada.
- Mark DeBard/Jack Alexander made a motion that we allocate the current Lourene Wishart plant propagation fund (about \$2700) to the Preservation Committee, with the stipulation that they report on their progress regularly including how they spend the funds. If the Preservation Committee needs more funding later, they would be

eligible to ask for more funding from the board. We do not expect them to spend all the money in a single year. Motion amended so that rare plants determined by the committee could be put up for auction, and that money will be re-invested in the plant propagation committee fund. David and Kelly amended the motion that we should keep the Lourene Wishart fund and retitle it to Lourene Wishart Propagation and Preservation Fund.

- Discussion of what benefits Life Members of ILS receive, and whether it should change.

Elections:

- **President:** Dr. Robert Zavodny was nominated for president by Dr. Mark DeBard and re-elected as President.
- **Executive Vice President:** Brad Bittorf is stepping down after 16 years. Claire Fouquet was nominated by Tim McCauley. After some discussion of the role and its responsibilities, Claire was elected to serve out the remainder of Brad's term until 2025. Brad thanked the board for the opportunity to serve for so long and said he would help Claire.
- **Treasurer:** Karen McCauley is stepping down. Discussion covered the requirements of the role and whether there was any vetting of the candidates (not currently required by by-laws). This election was a postponed to clarify the way that the elections are conducted, and to gather more information about candidates. The Board will conduct the vote for this office at its next meeting.
- **Editor:** Tom Gober was nominated by Tim McCauley. Tom was re-elected as Editor.
- **Membership Secretary:** The board elected to defer this election to the next board meeting (60 days) to allow the candidates a chance to learn more about the role.
- **Next meeting:** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 21 August 2021, but President Zavodny will solicit a time that works for most people. Candidates for both Treasurer and Membership Secretary should be considered prior to the meeting.

The next meeting agenda will cover:

- Election of Officers for Membership Secretary and Treasurer, and
- Whether the ILS Board will fund a research proposal from among the candidate proposals as recommended by the research committee.

Nicole made a motion to adjourn. Passed.

Treasurer's Report 2021		
Fiscal Year 4/1/20 - 3/31/21		
KeyBank Checking Account Balance 4/1/21		\$ 15,482.46
Edward Jones Company Investments:		
Miami-Dade Cnty Aviation 4.25%		5,000.00
Tennessee Valley Auth Gbr Pwr 4.65%		20,000.00
JPMorgan Chase & Co 3%		5,000.00
Franklin Adj US Govt Secs .04%		30,817.01
Edward Jones cash balance		23.73
TOTAL		\$76,323.20
Special Accounts (Included in the above total)		
Life Member/Endowment Fund	\$ 41,944.57	
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)	2,307.94	
Education & Research	0	
Youth Program Fund	0	
Total Funds in Special Accounts	\$ 44,252.51	
Total Funds in General Accounts	\$ 32,070.69	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 76,323.20	
Income		
Membership Dues		\$ 5,554.37
Life Member Endowment		\$ 500.00
Contributions		\$ 845.00
Interest Income		1,293.83
Auction Income (Virtual)		4,709.66
Misc Income (Lilac Bkt sales, DVD's, Notecards, Activity Books)		510.80
Convention Income none (Quebec Refund posted last FY)		0.00
Total Income		\$ 13,413.66
Expenses		
Journal		\$ 4,563.70
Postage		420.55
Bank Fees		318.17
Web site expenses		2,040.99
Insurance		432.50
2020 Convention Refunds		2,950.00
Misc Expenses		929.03
Total Expenses		\$ 11,654.94
Net Income (Loss)		\$ 1,758.72
Note: JPMorgan Chase bond replaces South Brow ard Municipal bond that w as called in.		
Submitted 5/1/21 by Karen McCauley, ILS Treasurer		

Lilac forcing methods in winter in Peter the Great Botanic Garden BIN RAS

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(English translation by Google Translate & Mark L. DeBard)

Summary: Forcing of container plants of various lilac cultivars (*Syringa vulgaris* L.) is annually done for the decorative project “Thaw Out the Senses” of the Peter the Great Botanical Garden BIN RAS. In this regard, there was a need to develop agrotechnical methods to achieve flowering of the bushes in February, which will showcase the cultivars’ characteristics as closely as possible. Five years of experience in forcing lilacs allowed us to develop optimal technological procedures for preparing plants for bloom, including temperature and humidity conditions during the forcing period, as well as stimulation with agrochemical preparations.

Keywords: lilac forcing, temperature and humidity conditions, growth regulators, fertilizers.

The industrial process of forcing common lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris* L.) began in France at the end of the 18th century with the use of the ‘Rouge de Marly’ [‘Marlyensis’] cultivar. According to the technology that existed at that time, lilac flowers turned white in the cellars in the dark (etiolation). At the end of the 20th century, white lilacs were still popular, and the ‘Mme Florent Stepman’ cultivar was traditionally used for forcing for cuttings. However, the growth of technical progress made it possible to obtain forced lilacs of blue cultivars, as evidenced by the rather large production volumes of the lavender-blue cultivar ‘Hugo Koster’ [1].

Since 2017, in the Botanical Garden of Peter the Great of the V.I. V.L. Komarov RAS (BIN RAS), container plants of various cultivars of *S. vulgaris* have been forced for ornamental use in festival events in February. This accumulated experience has already made it possible to formulate optimal agrotechnical methods and determine the timing of adaptation and restoration of bushes for their reuse after forcing [2]. In this publication, the authors would like to

pay attention to the complex of agrochemical methods for obtaining ornamental specimens of *S. vulgaris* cultivars with a long flowering period by certain dates, in particular, by the third week of February.

Very short daylight hours in St. Petersburg during the winter months have the greatest negative impact on the ornamental use of forced lilac blooming. Despite the daily 12-hour supplementary lighting of the plants with fluorescent lamps, the color of the lilac flowers turned out to be much paler than the required characteristics of the cultivar. In this regard, the authors of this publication were faced with the task of choosing the temperature and humidity methods of plant maintenance, as well as developing an optimal protocol for the use of agrochemical preparations and implementing them so that the results of forcing of lilacs in February resemble as much as possible the descriptions of the cultivars used.

The color of dark cultivars of lilacs is especially dependent on the conditions of forcing and growing. At very high temperatures, with poor ventilation and excessive nitrogen fertilization, the inflorescences of plants droop and break, and the color of the flowers turns out to be much paler than required. However, for forcing container plants in the indoor garden, such brightly colored cultivars of lilac as 'Sensation' and 'Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth' are also successfully used. A complete list of lilac cultivars [3] that took part in forcing for five years is shown in Table 1.

As mentioned earlier [2], plant specimens prepared for forcing must go through a dormant period, and the longer this period lasts, the shorter the forcing period will be. In this case, freezing the bushes before forcing helps to awaken them. Perhaps the warm winters of 2018–2019 and 2019–2020 with no prolonged frosts and average monthly temperatures in December above 0°C negatively affected the ornamental qualities of forcing in those years and caused the weaker color of flowers.

To obtain flowering specimens of lilacs by the third week of February, containers with plants were brought into the greenhouses in mid-January and for the first 13 days were kept in the cold compartment of the greenhouses in the temperature range 8–12°C (46–53°F) with a high relative humidity of over 80%. After the containers were thawed, the root system was stimulated by adding potassium humate

Table 1. Cultivars of lilacs used for forcing in containers for five years 2017-2021.

Cultivar	Breeder	Country	Year	Color	Flower Characteristics
Dresden China	Klager	USA	1930	IV	Single, medium 1.5cm, pale blue to purple
Sensation	Maarse	Netherlands	1938	VII & I	Single, large 2.2cm, bluish purple with white edges
Buffon	Lemoine	France	1921	V	Single, large 3cm, light purple with pink tint
Katherine Havemeyer	Lemoine	France	1922	V	Double, large 3cm, cobalt-lilac with pink tint
Mechta	Kolesnikov	USSR (Russia)	1941	III-IV	Single, large 3cm, bluish-purple, light center
Aucubaefolia	Gouchault	France	1919	III	Double, bluish pink, variegated leaves
Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth	Spaeth	Germany	1883	VII	Single, large 2.5cm, dark purple-red
Primrose	Maarse	Netherlands	1949	I	Single, light yellow fades to white

at a concentration of 0.1% [ie., physiologically active potassium salts of humic acids; \$33 for 1 gallon]. Potassium humate has optimal acidity, is neutral in chemical reaction, and its additional enrichment with microelements contributes to the stimulation of fine roots [4].

On the fifth to seventh days after the plants were brought into warm conditions, the opening stage began: fourteen buds [5] of the ‘Primrose’ cultivar, which made it possible to start pinching most of

the vegetative buds to enhance the nutrition of the generative shoots. In the same period, a single root feeding with 0.2% calcium nitrate [\$14 for 5 lbs concentrate] was carried out, which satisfies the plant's need for nitrogen at the initial stages of growth and, with the help of calcium, contributes to its effective assimilation.

To increase the immunity of plants at this stage, foliar treatment with Immunocytophyte 0.05% [arachidonic acid ethyl ester; \$18 for 100 capsules 10% with 25 mg arachidonic acid each] was also carried out. Under its action, due to an increase in the expression of stress-sensitive genes, the resistance of plants to biotic stresses increases [6].

On the 14th day of forcing, the plant room temperature was increased to 15–20°C (59–68°F), which made it possible to force the stage of isolation and growth of shoots. At this stage, the plants were watered with the preparation Siliplant 0.5% [i.e., chelated micronutrients with a high content of bioactive silicon: \$22/quart concentrate]. Silicon increases the activity of enzymes involved in redox processes [7] and influences the mechanical strength of shoots, preventing them from flagging and curving.

On days 19–21 of forcing, the presence and number of inflorescences on each plant become clear, and it is also possible to cull specimens that have not set flower buds. In 2021, there were a record number of such specimens—20 out of 60 shrubs supplied for forcing. This is due, as an experiment, to the process of forcing the bushes involved in the exposition the previous year, for which restoration measures were not done for a full cycle.

The 'Mechta' lilac cultivar proved to be the most susceptible to the length of the recovery period after forcing: all 4 accessions of this cultivar involved in the forcing process in 2020 did not form flower buds in 2021. Also, 3 out of 4 samples that forced in 2019 and completely passed the two-year cycle of regenerative agrotechnical measures on the grounds of the tree nursery, also did not form flower buds. Thus, only one specimen of the 'Mechta' cultivar is presented in the 2021 exposition. The responsiveness of lilac cultivars to the duration of the recovery period after forcing are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Influence of the duration of the recovery period after the distillation of lilac bushes on the setting of flower buds by them and the intensity of flowering: % of specimens that set flower buds / flowering score on a 65-point scale (0-flowering is absent; 1 - flowering shoots make up less than 25% of the total; 2 - flowering shoots make up about 50% of the crown; 3 - flowering shoots make up to 75%; 4 - flowering of almost the entire crown.)

Cultivar	1 Yr Restoration in Pots	2 Yr Restoration in Ground
Dresden China	0 / 0	100% / 2
Sensation	50% / 2	100% / 3-4
Buffoon	0 / 0	70% / 2
Katherine Havemeyer	0 / 0	100% / 3
Mechta	0 / 0	25% / 1
Aucubaefolia	0 / 0	70% / 1
Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth	0 / 0	100% / 2
Primrose	50% / 2	100% / 3-4

The significant impact of forcing flowering of such cultivars of common lilacs as ‘Sensation’ and ‘Primrose’ had a lesser effect on their ability to set flower buds. These cultivars can be reused for forcing the next year, however, even then they have a reduced likelihood and intensity of flowering.

After culling specimens that did not form flower buds, the remaining specimens were pinched back on the vegetative shoots by 2–3 internodes. This procedure, although it reduces the chances of setting flower buds for the next year, allows you to prevent deformation and bending of young shoots due to lack of sunlight. As a result, even during the forcing process, you can get a cutting of a lilac with an ornamental look.

For the formed vegetative part of the plants on the 19th day of

forcing, foliar feeding was carried out with amino acids 1% [\$16/2 oz] and Cal-Mag [calcium/magnesium plus iron, \$16/qt concentrate] with simultaneous watering of the roots with monopotassium phosphate 0.2% [\$26/pound concentrate].

Starting from the 22nd day of forcing, the environmental temperature was increased to 20–24°C (68–75°F) with a relative humidity of 65%–70%, which made it possible to accelerate the process of the formation of inflorescences, which at that moment begin to appear. This is the first color of the buds of the ‘Katherine Havemeyer’ cultivar. Later on the 27th day of forcing, the buds of the ‘Sensation’ and ‘Mechta’ cultivars began to show.

At this stage, to prevent fungal infections, the bushes were root-watered with Vitaplan (60 g per liter, 100 ml of solution per 10 liters) [Bacillus subtilis BKM B-2604D + Bacillus subtilis BKM B-2605D; \$14/2oz powder concentrate]. To preserve the color of the flowers, a foliar spray was carried out with a mixture of Domotsvet 0.5% [i.e., hydroxycinnamic acids; \$30/5gm of 99%, or use ferulic acid \$10/30, 250mg tabs] with Molibion 0.5% [i.e., molybdenum, \$11/60 one mg caps].

To increase the duration of flowering and preserve the brightness of the color at the final stage (32–36 days), when the first flower opens (cultivar ‘Dresden China’), foliar spray was carried out with Hydromix 0.05% [i.e., microelements in chelated form; \$26/32 oz readymix] with a simultaneous decrease in temperature to 12–18°C (53–64°F).

After opening about a third of the buds on all cultivars, or 4–6 days later, the temperature is then dropped to 8–14°C (46–57°F) for 2–3 days before putting the plants on exhibition.

Thus, the total duration of obtaining exposition specimens of lilac cultivars in containers was 35–40 days. At the same time, the samples almost completely retained the characteristics of the color of flowers inherent in a particular cultivar. The duration of lilac flowering, subject to the exposure temperature in the range of 8–14°C (46–57°F) and humidity 55–75%, was 20–21 days.

The work was carried out within the framework of the state assignment on the planned theme “Collections of living plants of the V.I. V.L. Komarov (history, current state, prospects of use)”, number AAAA-A18-118032890141-4.



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S. vulgaris 'Ledokhod' (Russian for Ice Drift)
by Olga Aladina

Preservation Committee Update Part 1 - Preservation Activities in the Western Hemisphere

Greetings fellow lilac aficionados! It has been a while since the Preservation Committee last submitted an article to the ILS journal, in which we requested that everyone share with us information regarding the lilacs existing in their private collections. That request continues to remain an important one that will be very helpful to our efforts and, as always, we will keep any information that is shared confidential. Our Canadian Preservation Committee member, Claire Fouquet, will in fact be reaching out to our members and public gardens in Canada this year to further that end, which is exciting as it will really help us to identify those lilacs truly scarce in North America—but I am sure that at this point you may be wondering what else the committee has been doing during the past 18 months besides collecting data. I am happy to report that various efforts have been underway, depending upon the area of the globe. For the first of a 2-part update on Preservation Committee activities, let me enlighten you on what else has been transpiring in the Western Hemisphere!

We are very excited to report that significant further steps have been made in the past year and a half. After identifying a number of lilacs considered rare, the Preservation Committee was able to obtain scions of them through several generous donors and were able to get the scions successfully grafted by a munificent nursery, producing one or more additional plants of each of these cultivars to ensure their continued existence. We recognize that grafted lilacs are not ideal, as there is always a risk of the host plant taking over if growth is not controlled. That being said, producing grafted plants is just the first phase for preserving these cultivars, with the ultimate goal to produce plants surviving on their own roots, via layering or softwood cutting propagation. (As an aside, we are interested in identifying individuals that have successfully propagated lilacs via softwood cuttings, so if you would be willing to partner with the Preservation Committee to aid in this next step, please let me know!) As of today, we have successfully grafted two dozen cultivars and I am excited to

share that we plan on grafting more in 2022!

The second significant advancement is that the Preservation Committee has successfully begun the establishment of its own preservation collection, “Paradeisos de Lilas”, wherein rare lilacs that have been procured have been planted out and some of our grafted lilacs will be maintained. The plants in this collection, once verified via bloom,

will serve as “parent” plants for any further propagation efforts for those cultivars with a goal to further disseminate those cultivars to public collections, as well as the ILS. To date, Paradeisos de Lilas contains over 75 lilacs that could be considered uncommon, with plans to expand further in 2022!



‘Rhapsody’



‘Paradeisos’ de Lilas’

The Preservation Committee has also been actively researching and following leads to locate lilacs believed to be near extinction, if not entirely extinct. Unfortunately, we have come to a dead end several times when trying to locate some of the lilacs feared to no longer exist, but we persevere. One great success story involves the validation of the existence of ‘Wittbold Variegated’, a variegated lilac only known to be mentioned (by this author, anyway) in Father Fiala’s book *Lilacs – The Genus Syringa*. The Preservation

Committee was able to locate, photograph and obtain several suckers of this cultivar in 2021 so that it can be planted at Paradeisos de Lilas and thus be preserved and propagated further in the future!

Focusing on select “endangered” lilacs and trying to locate them

will continue to be an ongoing goal—and as part of our efforts, we want to leverage the value of historical knowledge, asking for your help and recollections in regards to a particular lilac or event from time to time in the ILS journal. Look for one such article in an upcoming edition of the journal and we hope that we hear from one or more of you after it is published! The more that we work together as a group to share information and our knowledge, the more successful we will be in preserving a lilac cultivar that may otherwise disappear!

Lastly, the Preservation Committee has been working to establish partnerships with public gardens in the United States. Building and maintaining relationships with public gardens is critical to ensuring successful preservation of all lilacs of great merit, and we are proud to announce that to date, we have effectively partnered with representatives of Highland Park in Rochester, NY, the Barnes Arboretum at Saint Joseph's University in PA, Denver Botanical Gardens and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Boston, MA. Hopefully, this is just the beginning—and we welcome and look forward to establishing further partnerships in 2022!

All in all, we are happy with what has been accomplished in the past year, but as I mentioned, this is just a brief summary of the activities that have gone on in the Western Hemisphere. There is far more that has been accomplished. Stay tuned for Part 2 of our update to hear what the Preservation Committee has been doing in the Eastern Hemisphere!



Variagated foliage

Lilacs with Winter Related Names!

'Belosnezhka', *S. vulgaris*, ? I

China Snow™, *S. pekinensis*, S I

'Iney', *S. vulgaris*. 'Иней' (Hoarfrost), D I

'Ledokhod', *S. vulgaris*. 'Ледоход' (Ice drift), S V-IV

'Lilovaya Purga', *S. vulgaris*, (Purple snowstorm), S V

'Metel'-Zavirukha', *S. vulgaris*,
'Метель-Завируха' (Russian snowstorm), S I

'Pervyi Sneg', *S. villosa* subsp. *wolfii*, S I

'Russkii Sever', *S. vulgaris*, 'Русский север' (Russian North), D I

'Sierra Snow', *S. ×hyacinthiflora*, S I

'Snegurochka', *S. vulgaris*,
'Снегурочка' (Snow Maiden), D I

'Snezhinka', *S. vulgaris*, 'Снежинка' (Snowflake), ? I

'Snezhnii Kom', *S. vulgaris*, S I
'Snow Cap', *S. vulgaris*, S I

SNOWDANCE™, *S. reticulata* subsp. *reticulata*, S I

'Snowdrift', *S. (Villosae Group)*, *S. ×prestoniae*, S I

'Snowflake', *S. vulgaris*, D I

'Snow Princess', *S. vulgaris*, D I

'Snow Shower', *S. vulgaris*, S I

'Snowstorm', *S. pubescens* subsp. *pubescens*, S I

'Snow White', *S. vulgaris*, D I

'Snowy', *S. ×hyacinthiflora*, S I

'Zimneye Utro', *S. vulgaris*, 'Зимнее утро' (Winter Morning), D I



S. vulgaris 'Metel'-Zavirukha'
(Russian snowstorm)
by Natalia Makedonskaya

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S. vulgaris 'Russkii Sever'
(Name for Russian North)
by Olga Aladina

